

Contracts Service, 7th and D Streets, SW., GSA Building, ROB-3, Room 3660, ROB-3, Washington, DC 20202-4724, Attention: Laverne Reddick, Contract Specialist.

Dated: March 20, 1995.

**Sharon P. Robinson,**

*Assistant Secretary for Educational Research and Improvement.*

[FR Doc. 95-7282 Filed 3-23-95; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4000-01-P

## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

### Energy Partnerships for a Strong Economy/Renewable Energy Commercialization—Geothermal Power

**AGENCY:** Department of Energy, Idaho Operations Office.

**ACTION:** Solicitation for Financial Assistance: Energy Partnerships for a Strong Economy/Renewable Energy Commercialization—Geothermal Power.

**SUMMARY:** Notice is hereby given that pursuant to Public Law 93-577, Federal Non-nuclear Energy Research and Development Act of 1974; Public Law 93-410, Geothermal Energy Research, Development and Demonstration; and Section 2306 of the Energy Policy Act of 1992 (EPACT); the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Idaho Operations Office (ID) is seeking applications for cost-shared research, development and demonstration of geothermal power. A minimum 50% non-federal cost share for the project is required. This notice is solicitation document DE-PS07-95ID13349.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Linda Hallum, Contract Specialist, telephone (208) 526-5545, facsimile (208) 526-5548. The Contracting Officer is Brad Bauer, (208) 526-0090.

**DATES:** The effective date of this solicitation is March 24, 1995. The deadline for receipt of applications is 3 p.m. MDT, May 16, 1995. Late applications will be handled in accordance with 10 CFR 600.13.

Prospective applicants should request the application package by March 30, 1995 (which includes necessary forms, assurances and certifications), by writing to the DOE Contract Specialist. Facsimile requests are authorized. Questions regarding this solicitation should be submitted in writing to the DOE Contract Specialist no later than April 10, 1995. Questions and answers will be issued in writing as an amendment to this solicitation. Preproposal conferences may be available if a sufficient number of

applicants request one. Preproposal conference requests should be made no later than April 10, 1995.

DOE anticipates that this solicitation will result in the award of one or more cooperative agreements. Substantial involvement by DOE is anticipated. Selections for negotiations are expected to be made on or about June 28, 1995. All awards are expected to be made prior to September 30, 1995.

**ADDRESSES:** Applications shall be submitted to: Procurement Services Division; Attention: SOL DE-PS07-95ID13349 (Hallum/Bauer); U.S. DOE, Idaho Operations Office; 850 Energy Drive, MS 1221; Idaho Falls, Idaho 83401-1563.

CFDA Number: The Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Number for this program is 81.087.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Energy efficiency and renewable energy projects entered into by both the public and private sectors are the cornerstone of the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) Energy Partnerships for a Strong Economy. The purpose of various Energy Partnerships programs is to strengthen the economy and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. In support of this objective, DOE, in collaboration with the geothermal industry and the electric utilities, has developed an initiative for furthering the commercialization of geothermal power. A primary strategy of the initiative is the acceleration of geothermal development through cost-shared projects.

This solicitation requests applications from industry for one or more collaborative efforts to support the development of new geothermal power generation. These efforts are to promote the commercialization of this energy source, and result in a near-term increase in the amount of electrical power generated from geothermal energy for sale to an end user in the United States. The U.S. Department of Energy, Office of Utility Technologies will provide \$800,000 in funding for one or more projects. The DOE funds may be utilized only for activities directly related to the applicant's power plant. Applications are solicited which will result in the sale in the United States of new electrical power generated from geothermal energy by the end of 1997.

### Objectives

The objectives of this solicitation are to promote the commercialization of geothermal energy for the production of electrical power, and to reduce the emission of greenhouse gases in the United States. By accomplishing these

objectives, it is anticipated that jobs will be created and that the nation's geothermal industry will be better positioned to compete and win in the global marketplace. The sale of the new power generated by the cost-shared project(s) and further growth of the geothermal industry will off-set the use of fossil fuels to generate electrical power, thereby reducing the nation's emissions of greenhouse gases.

### Priorities

To promote the commercialization of geothermal energy, DOE's geothermal power initiative identified the utilization of previously undeveloped geothermal resources and the use of innovative technologies in power plants to convert the geothermal energy to electrical power as specific areas for emphasis in the solicitation of applications for new geothermal power capacity.

### Scope

All applications that can demonstrate an existing or pending sales agreement for the power generated, and result in a net increase in geothermal power generation, will be accepted and considered. Applications that address either of the following two areas will receive a higher technical ranking than applications that utilize currently developed geothermal resources and/or conventional power plant energy conversion system technologies.

1. Installation of a plant that initiates the commercial power production from a new geothermal resource, accelerating the development of this new resource.

2. Retrofitting existing plants and/or constructing new plants to incorporate innovative improvements in power plant technology that will increase power generation from geothermal resources.

In order to differentiate from the expansion of an existing resource, for the purpose of this solicitation, a new geothermal resource is the first utilization of a geothermal reservoir for the production of electrical power.

The application(s) selected for award will be subject to the quarterly reporting requirements normally associated with DOE financial assistance awards. If the selected application uses an innovative power plant technology, the quarterly Technical Progress Report shall contain data and calculations which detail the performance of this technology during the progress reporting period. Any other use of the technology by the geothermal industry is also to be reported. If the selected application is the first production of power from a new geothermal resource, the quarterly

Technical Progress Report should indicate whether there is any further use of this resource for the generation of electrical power. The selected application(s) will also be required to report on greenhouse gas reductions in accordance with the reporting system developed by the DOE Energy Information Administration (EIA) pursuant to EPACT 1605.b. The reporting guidelines for this program will be provided with the application package.

#### DOE Funding and Cost Sharing

The project(s) will be cost-shared, with participant(s) providing a minimum of 50% of the costs. Total DOE funding is \$800,000, regardless of the number of applications selected. (If a single application is selected it may receive up to \$800,000; if multiple applications are selected, the DOE share may total \$800,000.) The DOE cost-sharing portion of this effort is limited to the following:

1. Purchase of power plant equipment,
2. Power plant construction costs, and
3. Tie-in to the existing electrical power grid system.

Although the DOE funding is available in FY-1995, these funds do not necessarily need to be used during this fiscal year. The DOE funds are intended to be used for the purchase and/or installation of the power plant components. It is not intended that the DOE contribution be used for other related activities, including "paper" feasibility, environmental, or compliance studies and/or assessments; nor is it intended that the funds for this solicitation be used for activities related to identifying and/or developing the productive capacity of the hydrothermal resource. It is intended that the federal funds be used to help mitigate a portion of the initial risk associated with the development of the new generation capacity from geothermal energy. It is not intended that the project success be based upon a continuing subsidy of federal dollars.

#### Qualified Applicants

Private research organizations, nonprofit institutions, or profit making entities, and other entities are eligible to submit applications in response to this solicitation. OMB A-95 clearance is not required.

#### Eligibility Requirements

For the application to be considered for evaluation and award, an agreement for the sale in the United States of the electrical power that will be produced

by the proposed project must be demonstrated to exist, or to be pending.

#### Preparation of Applications

Each application shall be submitted in one volume. One original and nine copies of each application are to be submitted. The applications should observe the following format, presenting information as completely and concisely as possible.

Applications submitted in response to this solicitation must provide detailed program, management, personnel, power plant energy conversion process, site, environmental and budget information as further specified in this solicitation.

1. *Cover Page:* The cover page is to include the signature, title, address, telephone number, and fax number of the applicant's authorized representative. The cover page also is to contain the copy number of the volume, with the original volume identified as "Original: Copy No. 1", and subsequent copies identified as "Copy No. 2", "Copy No. 3", etc.

2. *Table of Contents:* The application is to include a table of contents and page numbers corresponding to the elements outlined in these preparation guidelines.

3. *Technical Summary:* The application is to provide a one page summary that furnishes a concise and informative description of the proposed project. This summary should contain information which is releasable to the public.

In order to expedite the evaluation process, the applications are to adhere to the following format, including use of the indicated element titles. The information presented for each element should be both complete and concise. These elements form the criteria upon which the application will be evaluated.

4. *Technical Discussion. a.* Geothermal Resource. The application is to contain explicit statements and documentation that demonstrate that the resource is adequate for the proposed usage, and that the resource will be available to operate the proposed facility at rated capacity for the expected life of the project, as defined in the application. The adequacy of the resource can be demonstrated by inclusion of data such as documented well flow tests, multi-well interference tests, temperature logs, brine chemistry, production data from existing production and injection wells (including documentation of their characteristics), and any other suitable data that will assist in the evaluation of the geothermal resource.

If this is the first application of the geothermal reservoir for power production, the application is to provide supporting documentation that clearly demonstrates this reservoir has not been utilized previously to produce electrical power for commercial sale.

If the application is for the expanded use of an existing reservoir, the projected impact on the reservoir's present production and/or injection capacities is to be addressed.

If electrical power and/or other ancillary utilities are required for the development of the resource for this application, their availability is to be discussed.

If the applicant does not own, or otherwise control the availability and use of the resource, documentation is required demonstrating that the resource provider will furnish the fluids required for the new capacity during the stated project life.

b. *Power Plant Energy Conversion System.* The application is to provide a description of the geothermal power plant's energy conversion system that will be used to produce the new power for sale. This description is to detail the power cycle and component operating parameters to allow evaluation of the adequacy of the proposed system to provide the stated power production. The assumptions used relative to the performance of the heat rejection system when determining the new generating capacity of the proposed project are to be included in the power plant description.

The description of the power plant energy conversion system is to clearly indicate whether it employs an innovative technology that improves plant efficiency and is not typically utilized commercially in the United States. If an innovative technology is to be utilized, documentation is to be provided that demonstrates the viability of the technology and establishes that it will provide the expected generation capacity. This documentation is to indicate the degree to which this technology could be utilized in geothermal plants at other locations, or whether the technology is specific to the proposed site and/or resource.

If the proposed new geothermal power generation will result from the retrofit of an existing facility, the application is to detail the retrofit, as well as the impact of the retrofit on the performance on the existing facility.

Electrical power and/or other ancillary utilities (including make-up water for heat rejection) required for the development of the proposed power plant and their availability are to be discussed, along with the tie-in of the

new power generation to the existing electrical grid system.

**Note:** Underlying assumptions along with detailed calculations to support the claimed economic and energy efficiency benefits must be included in the application.

c. **Impact on Greenhouse Gas Emissions.** The application's impact on reducing greenhouse gas emissions will be evaluated by DOE from the information provided. This evaluation will consider that the application's new, "net" generation capacity off-sets the use of fossil fuels for the generation of electrical power. The extent to which fossil fuels are used to generate electrical power will be obtained from the 1995 Annual Energy Outlook (published by DOE's Energy Information Administration) projections of power generation by fuel types. By not using fossil fuels to generate this power, the greenhouse gases produced by these fuels are avoided. In reviewing the application, DOE will adjust the prediction of avoided greenhouse gas emissions to account for the emissions associated with the proposed project.

This evaluation will consider both the projected reduction of greenhouse gas emissions due to the proposed project, as well as the potential reduction that might occur from the further development of the new geothermal field, or the expanded utilization of an innovative technology in power plants by the geothermal industry. Projections of the effect of the greenhouse gas reductions will be evaluated for the years 2000 and 2010.

In order to forecast the reduction in greenhouse gases, the application is to provide:

- (1) The project's new, net electrical generation capacity,
- (2) The plant availability,
- (3) The projected annual kW-hours produced,
- (4) The date the new power generation will come on line, and
- (5) The expected life of the new power generation.

The amount of new, net electrical generation capacity is the "net" electrical power generated for sale; all parasitic power requirements associated with the production of this new capacity should be identified and deducted, as well as any negative (or positive) impact on any existing generating capacity. (The parasitic power requirements include the power necessary to supply and dispose of the geothermal fluid associated with the new power capacity, as well as the power required to operate the proposed power plant or associated with the plant retrofit.)

The application is also to include information relative to the anticipated emission of gases (on a kilograms per year basis) that will result from the new geothermal power production. This information is to identify the emission of non-condensable gases during the production, utilization and disposal (injection) of the geothermal resource fluid, as well as the operation of the power plant's energy conversion system, including the heat rejection system. If the proposed energy conversion system is a binary power cycle, any fugitive gas emissions from the power cycle are to be identified. If the level of the emission of these gases is unknown or uncertain, the application is to identify the levels of emission for any of these gases reported in the project permitting process.

If the application is for the application of an innovative power plant technology or for a geothermal resource with the capacity for further development, the potential increase in power production is to be included, allowing the potential reduction of greenhouse gas emissions to be evaluated. The anticipated total additional capacity, the availability of the additional power capacity, the date when the additional power generation might be expected to come on line, and the expected period that the geothermal resource could support this added power production are to be provided.

d. **Environmental.** The application is to include relevant information on leasing, permitting, and/or other legal and commercial issues which may affect the resource development and/or the power plant construction/operation.

5. **Management Discussion.** a. Program and Management Plan, Organization, and Key Personnel. A program management plan is to be provided that includes a statement of work detailing the activities necessary to complete the project. This plan is to include a project schedule identifying major milestones associated with the proposed cost-shared portion of the project, and how these milestones are incorporated into the remaining overall project work scope. The management plan is also to include a discussion of all facilities to be constructed and/or retrofitted during the project.

The management plan is to include the name and roles of the applicant and each of the participants involved in the project, including the contractual arrangements between the applicant and participants. The capabilities and responsibilities of the applicant and each participant; experience, qualifications, and responsibilities of key personnel; and any unique facilities

and/or capabilities which would assure the success of the project are to be provided, along with information regarding the applicant's (or appropriate participant's) experience in project and construction management.

The application is to discuss the composition of the organization of the applicant and participants from the standpoint of being involved in, and/or representative of the geothermal industry.

b. **Financial Information.** The application is to provide a description of the applicant and all other participants in the project, including the type of business, history, size, and discussion of the ownership and/or controlling interest, along with a listing of current or recent (within the past two years) government grants, cooperative agreements, and/or other work by the applicant in this or related fields. This listing is to include the names of the sponsoring agency or firm, instrument number, amount of the instrument, subject area of the instrument, and the name and telephone number of the contracting officer, or contract specialist.

Financial data on the applicant and participants, identifying the source of cost sharing and the available financial resources, are to be provided. These data are to include annual financial statements (balance sheet and income and expense statement) for the past 3 years for the applicant, as well as for the participants providing cost sharing and/or performing work. Where available, financial statements prepared by certified public accountants are to be submitted.

An estimated cost to perform the tasks as identified in the proposed statement of work for the overall project is to be provided along with the basis or rationale supporting these costs. It will be used to evaluate the reasonableness of the project cost, the probable cost to the government, as well as to provide an understanding of the magnitude of the effort required.

6. **Economic Impact Discussion.** The application is to forecast the economic impact of the application, including employment opportunities retained and/or created, estimated annual payroll, and construction and operation-related expenditures, as well as any other economic benefits.

If the application involves the application of an innovative, or new technology, the application is to describe how this technology could impact the growth of the nation's geothermal industry both in the United States and in other countries. If the application involves the development of

a new resource, the economic impact of future development of the resource is to be addressed.

7. *Cost/Business Discussion.* a. Power Sales Agreement: The application is to identify and document any existing or pending agreement for the sale of the electrical power that will be produced by the proposed project. An existing or pending power sales agreement is an eligibility requirement, i.e., it must exist for the application to be considered.

b. Cost Sharing: The requested amount of DOE funds to be cost-shared is to be identified, along with how these funds will be used and the year in which they will be utilized. The percentage level of the DOE funds to the total project cost is to be defined. The impact of DOE's cost share to the viability of the project is to be addressed.

The application is to provide an estimate of the monetary value (basis of and the nature, e.g., equipment, labor, facilities, cash, etc.) of all contributions to the project by year and by party (DOE, applicant, and participants). If cost share is provided by someone other than the applicant, the application must include a statement by the providing entity which specifically commits the cost share for use on the project. Note that "cost sharing" is not limited to monetary investment. For purposes of this solicitation, the "cost sharing" definition is contained in 10 CFR 600.123, 600.206, 600.424. Foregone fee or profit shall not be considered cost sharing under any resulting agreement. Payment of actual costs in the final agreement will only include those costs that are allowable, incurred, costs that are allocable to the program as determined in accordance with the applicable cost principles prescribed in 10 CFR 600.127 for the respective participants and in the cost share ratios to be defined in the negotiations.

c. Budget: A budget period is an interval of time into which the project period is divided for funding and reporting purposes. Project period means the total approved period of time that DOE will provide support, contingent upon satisfactory progress and availability of funds. The project periods may be divided into one or more budget periods. Project periods are not expected to exceed two years. Each application must contain Standard Forms 424 and 424A. The budget summary page only needs to be completed for the first budget period; all other periods of support requested should be shown on the total costs page. The application should contain full details of the costs regarding the labor, overhead, material, travel, subcontracts,

consultants, and other support costs broken down by task and by year. Every cost item should be justifiable and further details of the costs may be required if the application is selected for the award. It is essential that requested details be submitted in a timely manner for the actual award. Items of needed equipment should be individually listed by description and estimated cost, inclusive of tax, and adequately justified. The destination and purpose of budgeted travel and its relevance to the research should be specified. Anticipated consultant services should be justified and information furnished on each individual's expertise, primary organizational affiliation, daily compensation rate and number of days of expected service. Consultant's travel costs should be listed separately under travel in the budget.

d. Cost Application: In the event there are multiple projects proposed in a submittal, a separate cost application should be included for each project proposed for funding. The cost application should have sufficient detail that an independent evaluation of the labor, materials, equipment and other costs as well as verification of the proposed cost share can be performed.

#### **Proprietary Application Information**

Applications submitted in response to this solicitation may contain trade secrets and/or privileged or confidential commercial or financial information which the applicant does not want used or disclosed for any purpose other than evaluation of the application. The use and disclosure of such data may be restricted provided the applicant marks the cover sheet of the application with the following legend, specifying the pages of the application which are to be restricted in accordance with the conditions of the legend:

"The data contained in pages \_\_\_\_\_ of this application have been submitted in confidence and contain trade secrets or proprietary information, and such data shall be used or disclosed only for evaluation purposes, provided that if this applicant receives an award as a result of or in connection with the submission of this application, DOE shall have the right to use or disclose the data herein to the extent provided in the award. This restriction does not limit the government's right to use or disclose data obtained without restriction from any source, including the applicant."

Further, to protect such data, each page containing such data shall be specifically identified and marked, including each line or paragraph

containing the data to be protected with a legend similar to the following:

"Use or disclosure of the data set forth above is subject to the restriction on the cover page of this application."

It should be noted, however, that data bearing the aforementioned legend may be subject to release under the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), if DOE or a court determines that the material so marked is not exempt under the FOIA. The Government assumes no liability for disclosure or use of unmarked data and may use or disclose such data for any purpose. Applicants are hereby notified that DOE intends to make all applications submitted available to non-Government personnel for the sole purpose of assisting the DOE in its evaluation of the applications. These individuals will be required to protect the confidentiality of any specifically identified information obtained as a result of their participation in the evaluation.

#### **Evaluation of Applications**

Applications submitted will be subject to a preliminary review by DOE to check for completeness and accuracy. Applications that are clearly non-responsive or do not provide evidence of an existing or pending agreement for the sale of electrical power generated, will not be subject to the comprehensive evaluation or considered for award.

DOE reserves the right to support all, none, or certain parts of the applications submitted in response to this solicitation.

The information presented in each application will be evaluated to determine the degree to which the stated objectives and priorities of this solicitation are met. The following is a summary listing of the criteria which will be considered in the evaluation and each's relative importance in the ranking process: Technical and environmental, management, economic impact, and cost-sharing. The technical and environmental criteria will rank twice as much as the management criteria; economic and cost-sharing criteria will rank approximately equally and at substantially less than the management criteria. The following briefly identifies the factors to be considered in the evaluation of each of the criterion.

#### ***Criterion 1: Technical and Environmental***

The geothermal resource is to be compatible/adequate with the requirements of the energy conversion system for the new geothermal power production. The resource is to be able to

sustain the proposed new and, if applicable, existing generation capacity over the proposed life of the project. The development of a new geothermal resource is preferred (first power production from a geothermal reservoir), particularly resources with the potential for continued development. The applicant's control over availability of the resource is preferred.

The evidence presented on the technical viability of the energy conversion system, including the clarity and completeness of the description of the power cycle to be used to generate the additional power will be considered. The degree to which the new power generation will utilize an innovative technology(s) will be weighed along with the evidence presented of the viability of the technology(s) and the probability of its successful implementation. The potential for further utilization of the innovative technology(s) by the geothermal industry to add generation capacity, i.e., use of the technology can be replicated in geothermal power plants at other sites, will also be evaluated. The evaluation will also consider the date at which the applicant will begin to sell the power produced, with power sales by 1997 preferred.

The projected impact of the proposed project on reducing greenhouse gas emissions will be evaluated for the year 2000 as well as for the year 2010 (with the emphasis on the year 2000). The potential impact on reducing greenhouse gas emissions as a result of increased usage of an innovative technology, as well as from further development of a new geothermal resource will be considered. The annual electrical production (watt-hr/yr) will be correlated to the gas emissions based on the projected mix of fuels used to generate this level of power in the absence of the new geothermal power generation.

Issues relating to leasing, permitting, and related activities for the project development will be considered along with the environmental restrictions. The environmental evaluation will consider the impact of the proposed activities at the project site, as well as the potential environmental impact of future resource development or application of technology at other facilities. The availability of required ancillary utilities/services, as well as proximity to existing electrical grid system will also be considered.

#### *Criterion 2: Management*

The statement of objectives will be evaluated for its completeness, and the evidence presented for completing the

project activities within the presented overall project schedule. The adequacy of the organizational structure, capabilities, and resources of the applicant and participants to address all aspects of the proposed project will be considered, along with the existence of unique capabilities, facilities, and/or equipment which provide additional assurance as to the success of the proposed project. Evidence of previous successes in the completion of similar projects will be considered, along with the applicant's experience in the geothermal industry.

#### *Criterion 3: Economic Impact*

The application will be evaluated for evidence presented of a positive economic impact, including the creation of additional employment opportunities. Evidence presented relative to the impact of project on the further growth of the geothermal industry within the U.S., as well as internationally, will be considered.

#### *Criterion 4: Cost Sharing*

DOE cost share is limited to the purchase of power plant equipment, power plant construction costs, and costs for tie-ins to the existing electrical power grid system. The applicant must cost share those portions of the project that are excluded from DOE cost share. The application will be evaluated on the nature and amount of cost-sharing. The applicant must demonstrate how it will meet its mandatory 50% cost share. This demonstration will occur through the adequacy (e.g., completeness, relevancy, substantiation) of the cost portion of the application. The applicant is responsible for showing how any in-kind contributions meet criteria in 10 CFR 600.123. Cash and cash-equivalent items (e.g., direct labor) are preferred. More consideration may be given to projects with a greater-than-50% cost share.

#### **Programmatic Selection Considerations**

In conjunction with the evaluation results and ranking of individual applications, the Government will make selections for negotiations and planned awards from among the highest ranking applications utilizing the following programmatic considerations:

(1) The proposed cost of the project will not be point scored. Applicants are advised, however, that notwithstanding the lower relative importance of the cost considerations, the evaluated cost may be the basis for selection. In making the selection decision, the apparent advantages of individual technical and business applications will be weighed against the probable cost to the

government to determine whether the technical and business approaches (excluding cost considerations) are worth the probable cost differences.

(2) It is desirable to implement each demonstration project as a collaborative effort in which the participants represent both the scientific/engineering research disciplines as well as members of the geothermal industry engaged in its practical, daily operations and experienced in the application of geothermal industry processes.

(3) Applications that have the potential to increase geothermal power capacity, reduce negative environmental impacts, and provide significant cost benefits are preferred.

#### **Merit Reviews**

All applications will be evaluated under the procedure for "Objective Merit Review of Discretionary Financial Assistance Applications", **Federal Register**, May 31, 1990, Vol. 55, No. 105 (copy provided upon request), and the criteria and programmatic considerations set forth in this solicitation. In conducting this evaluation, the Government may utilize assistance and advice from non-Government personnel. Applicants are therefore requested to state on the cover sheet of the applications if they do not consent to an evaluation by such non-Government personnel. The applicants are further advised that DOE may be unable to give full consideration to an application submitted without such consent.

#### **General Conditions and Notice to Applicants**

*a. Applicants:* All applicants will be notified in writing of the action taken on their applications in approximately 90 days after the closing date for this solicitation, provided no follow-up clarifications are needed. Status of any application during the evaluation and selection process will not be discussed with the applicants. Unsuccessful applications will not be returned.

*b. False Statements:* Applications must set forth full, accurate, and complete information as required by this solicitation. The penalty for making false statements is prescribed in 18 U.S.C. 1001.

*c. Application Clarification:* DOE reserves the right to require applications to be clarified or supplemented to the extent considered necessary either through additional written submissions or oral presentations.

*d. Amendments:* All amendments to this solicitation will be mailed to recipients who submit a written request for the DOE application package.

*e. Applicant's Past Performance:* DOE reserves the right to solicit from available sources relevant information concerning an applicant's past performance and may consider such information in its evaluation.

*f. Commitment of Public Funds:* The Contracting Officer is the only individual who can legally commit the Government to the expenditure of public funds in connection with the proposed award. Any other commitment, either explicit or implied, is invalid.

*g. Effective Period of Application:* All applications should remain in effect for at least 180 days from the closing date.

*h. Availability of Funds:* The actual amount of funds to be obligated will be subject to availability of funds appropriated by Congress.

*i. Loans under DOE Minority Economic Impact (MEI) Loan Program:* Applicants are advised that loans under the DOE Minority Economic Impact (MEI) Loan Program are not available to finance the cost of preparing an application pursuant to this solicitation.

*j. Assurances and Certifications:* DOE requires the submission of preaward assurances of compliance and certifications which are mandated by law. The assurance and certification forms will be provided in the application package.

*k. Questions and Answers:* Questions regarding this solicitation should be submitted in writing to the DOE Contract Specialist no later than April 10, 1995. Questions and answers will be issued in writing as an amendment to this solicitation.

*l. Preaward Costs:* The government is not liable for any costs incurred in preparation of an application. Awardees may incur preaward costs up to ninety (90) days prior to the effective date of award. Should the awardee take such action, it is done so at the awardee's risk and does not impose any obligation on the DOE to issue an award.

*m. Patents, Data, and Copyrights:* Applicants are advised that patents, data, and copyrights will be treated in accordance with 10 CFR 600.33.

*n. Environmental Impact:* An applicant environmental checklist will be provided in the DOE application package. Award will not be made until the environmental checklist is completed. An environmental review of the environmental checklist and the application will be conducted by DOE as required by 10 CFR 1021.216.

*o. EPACT:* Applicants shall be required to comply with section 2306 of the Energy Policy Act of 1992 (EPACT) (42 U.S.C. 13525), as applicable.

*p. Buy American Act:* Any organization receiving award under this solicitation must comply with the Buy American Provisions of Section 307 of Pub. L. 103-332, Department of the Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations Act of 1995.

Dated: March 9, 1995.

**R. J. Hoyles,**

*Director, Procurement Services Division.*

[FR Doc. 95-7278 Filed 3-23-95; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6450-01-P

### **Golden Field Office; Federal Assistance Award to National Automotive Technicians Education Foundation**

**AGENCY:** Department of Energy.

**ACTION:** Notice of Noncompetitive Financial Assistance Award.

**SUMMARY:** The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), pursuant to the DOE Financial Assistance Rules, 10 CFR 600.7, is announcing its intention to award a cooperative agreement to the National Automotive Technicians Education Foundation (NATEF), for the further development and implementation of a nationwide program for voluntary certification of training programs for alternative fuel vehicle and refueling systems technicians. This program will assist the Office of Transportation Technologies (OTT) programs at DOE, in the implementation of Section 411 of the Energy Policy Act of 1992 (EPACT). The OTT programs seek to improve transportation energy efficiency and to reduce the nation's dependence on imported fuels. This is not a notice for solicitation of proposals or financial assistance applications.

**ADDRESSES:** Questions regarding this announcement may be addressed to the U.S. Department of Energy, Golden Field Office, 1617 Cole Blvd., Golden, Colorado 80401, Attention: Ms. Ruth E. Adams, Contract Specialist. The telephone number is 303-275-4722.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The applicant organization is a nonprofit 501(c)3 corporation founded in 1982. In conjunction with the National Institute of Automotive Service Excellence (ASE), the applicant organization has implemented a national standards development and evaluation process for the certification of automotive technician training programs. This program expands the NATEF capability to include alternative fuel technician training programs. The NATEF organization is governed by its 15-member Board of Trustees which

represents virtually every segment of the transportation industry as well as representatives from consumer groups, vocational and other educators, professional technicians, employers of technicians, business leaders, and other affected entities and persons.

In accordance with 10 CFR 600.7, it has been determined that the activity to be funded is necessary to the satisfactory completion of an activity that will enhance the public benefit derived and for which competition and the delay resulting therefrom would have a significant adverse effect on completion of the activity. The applicant has exclusive domestic capability to perform the activity successfully, based upon its existing automotive technician training program certification process and its experience demonstrating that this process results in nationwide quality improvement of automotive service and repair. DOE knows of no organization other than NATEF which is capable and which is conducting or is planning to conduct development and implementation of certification of training programs for alternative fuel vehicle technicians and alternative fuel refueling-system technicians as proposed by the applicant.

Current Federal funding is available in the amount of \$500,000. A minimum of \$88,000 from non-Federal sources has been committed by NATEF to accomplish the first year of this development program. The project cost over five years is estimated to be \$2,795,634 total, with the DOE share being \$2,318,997 and \$476,637 to be cost-shared by NATEF.

Issued in Golden, Colorado on March 14, 1995.

**John W. Meeker,**

*Chief, Procurement, GO.*

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### **Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy**

#### **Federal Energy Management Programs Workshops**

**AGENCY:** Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, Department of Energy.

**ACTION:** Notice of Training Workshops.

**SUMMARY:** The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) is announcing the fiscal year 1995 training schedule for Federal energy management workshops that will be conducted by the Office of Federal Energy Management Programs in support of the Executive Order 12902